

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings include changes to Figures 26-30.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (Figures 26-30).

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration given the present application. Claims 30, 31, 34-38, 41-46, 48-54 and 56-63 are currently pending with claims 34, 35, 41, 42, 50 and 58 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 30, 31, 37, 38, 44, 52 and 60-63 have been amended and claims 32, 33, 39, 40, 47 and 55 have been canceled through this reply. Claims 30, 31, 37, 38, 44 and 52 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the objected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek time allowance of all pending claims.

Amendment

The subject matter of claims 32, 33, 39, 40, 47 and 55 have been incorporated into independent claims 30, 31, 37, 38, 44 and 52, respectively.

Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to Figures 26-30. Figures 26-30 have been amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure. The Abstract of the Disclosure is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 30, 31 and 44. Claims 30, 31 and 44 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejects claims 60-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 60-63 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 30-33, 36-40, 43, 45-49, 51 and 53-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,637 to Murashita et al. (Murashita); and rejects claims 44 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over AAPA. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 30, 31, 44 and 52 recite, *inter alia*, "the plurality of pieces of position information are rational number position information represented by a rational number" and "the predetermined order relationship is determined by the order of magnitude of resolution of the rational number." Independent claims 37 and 38 recite similar subject matter. The applied references fail to teach or suggest recited features of independent claims 30, 31, 37, 38, 44 and 52.

The AAPA discloses a single moving image content composed of a plurality of scenes where each scene is composed of one or a plurality of shots. See Figure 26 and page 1, lines 22-

page 2, line 3 of the specification. The motion intensity can take three levels, for example, high equals 3, intermediate equal 2 and low equal 1. See page 2, lines 4-10. The shots are put into a tree where the paths and subsequent layers are referred to as a branch layer. See column 5, lines 2-18.

The Code Tree described in Murashita represents a code assigning tree showing the correspondence relation between data and code, which is used for assigning a code to each data. As is apparent from Figs. 21 to 28 and the related description, the Code Tree does not indicate a series of data to be input (in particular, it does not indicate the order relation thereof). Murashita describes the rearrangement of data within the Code Tree according to the number of times of inputting the data or occurrence frequencies of input data in such manner that data of higher occurrence frequency is shifted to a position near to the root of the tree and assigned a code of shorter length so as to increase the coding efficiency.

In contrast, the present invention rearranges a plurality of position information represented by rational numbers (i.e., input data series) based on a predetermined order relationship, i.e., the order of magnitude of resolution of the rational numbers, in order to enable a differential coding of the plurality of position information. Thereby, the order becomes clear and differential coding becomes possible. Thus, the rearrangement of a plurality of rational number position information (input data series) according to the present invention and the rearrangement of data in the Code Tree according to the Murashita are different from each other and have different objects to be rearranged.

Furthermore, Murashita's rearrangement within the Code Tree is carried out according to the number of times of inputting the data (occurrence frequency of the input data) by placing the

data in the order relation according to their occurrence frequencies, which is not the order based on data values. In contrast, the present invention rearranges the plurality of rational number position information in the order relation according to the magnitude of resolution of the rational number. This feature apparently indicates the order relation based on data values. Thus, Murashita does not disclose or suggest that the predetermined order relationship is determined by the magnitude of resolution of the rational number. Accordingly, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claims 30, 31, 37, 38, 44 and 52.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 30, 31, 37, 38, 44 and 52 are patentability distinct from the applied references. The dependent claims are at least allowable by virtue of their dependence on corresponding allowable independent claims 30, 31, 37, 38, 44 and 52.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims based on the applied references is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Obert H. Chu, Reg. No. 52,744 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments: *Replacement Sheets (Figures 26-30)*